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Technology Center 2100

27. (amended) A logistics management tool to facilitate the process of shipping goods by a shipper via a carrier, comprising:

a rate server, connected to a network, having a set of rules by which a carrier transports;

a client application, connected to the network, having a set of rules by which a shipper ships; and

a supervisory server, connected to the network, through which said rate server and said client application register to establish a mutual message communication capability by which said rate server and said client application thereafter pass messages independently of said supervisory server over an interface between them, said interface isolating the set of rules by which the shipper ships from the rules by which the carrier transports.

28. (amended) The tool of claim 27, wherein:

the client application includes a client interface for communicating with the client application; and

the rate server is configured to communicate with the client application via the client interface.

29. (amended) The tool of claim 27, wherein the messages comprise:

at least one predefined request message issued by the client application to the rate server; and

at least one predefined response message issued by the rate server to the client application.

30. (amended) The tool of claim 29, wherein:

the predefined request message includes a weight and a delivery date for a package to be shipped; and

the predefined response message includes a cost for shipping the package.

31. (amended) The tool of claim 27, wherein the set of rules by which the carrier

transports comprises a knowledge base of rate structures and carrier practices pertaining to the carrier.

B2 32. (amended) The tool of claim 27, wherein the set of rules by which the shipper ships comprises a knowledge base of shipper's practices pertaining to the shipper.

B3 35. (amended) The tool of claim 27, wherein the supervisory server engages an interprocess communication mechanism to facilitate message passage between the rate server and the client application.

36. (amended) The tool of claim 35, wherein the interprocess communication mechanism is selected from the group consisting of shared memory, semaphores, named pipes, queues, signals, netbios, sockets, and mail slots.

B4 39. (amended) The tool of claim 35, wherein the client application further comprises a document server for printing of a shipping document.

40. (amended) The tool of claim 35, further comprising a document administration object for extending communication standards for the interprocess communication mechanism.

B5 43. (amended) The tool of claim 42, wherein:
the client application includes a client interface for communicating with the client application; and
the rate server is configured to communicate with the client application via the client interface.

B5 44. (amended) The tool of claim 42, wherein at least one predefined request message including a weight and a delivery date for a package to be shipped is issued by the client application to the rate server; and
at least one predefined response message including a cost for shipping the package is issued by the rate server to the client application.

45. (amended) The tool of claim 42, wherein the rate server includes a knowledge base of rate structures and carrier practices pertaining to the carrier.

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46. (amended) The tool of claim 42, wherein the client application includes a knowledge base of the shipper's practices pertaining to the shipper.

47. (amended) The tool of claim 46, wherein the knowledge base of the shipper's practices includes rules for taking orders for goods from customers, packaging the goods, and shipping the goods to customers.

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50. (amended) The tool of claim 49, wherein the interprocess communication mechanism is selected from the group consisting of shared memory, semaphores, named pipes, queues, signals, netbios, sockets, and mail slots.

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53. (amended) The tool of claim 49, wherein the client application further includes a document server for printing a shipping document.

59. (amended) The method of claim 55 further comprising the step of:
providing the rate server with a knowledge base of rate structures and carrier practices pertaining to the carrier.

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60. (amended) The method of claim 55 further comprising the step of:
providing the client application with a knowledge base of the shipper's practices pertaining to the shipper.

61. (amended) The method of claim 60, wherein the knowledge base of the shipper's practices includes rules for taking orders for goods from customers, packaging the goods, and shipping the goods to customers.

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64. (amended) The method of claim 63, wherein the interprocess communication mechanism is selected from the group consisting of shared memory, semaphores, named pipes, queues, signals, netbios, sockets, and mail slots.

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67. (amended) The method of claim 63 further comprising the step of:
providing the client application with a document server for printing a shipping document.

71. (amended) A logistics management tool to facilitate the process of shipping goods by a shipper via a carrier, comprising:
a rate server, connected to a network, having a set of rules by which a carrier transports;
a client application, connected to the network, having a set of rules by which a shipper ships;
a supervisory server, connected to the network, with which said rate server and said client application register to facilitate communication of messages between said rate server and said client application independently of said supervisory server; and
an interface associated with at least one of said rate server and said client application which isolates the set of rules by which the shipper ships from the set of rules by which the carrier transports.

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72. (amended) The tool of Claim 71, wherein:
the client application includes a client interface for communicating with the client application; and
the rate server is configured to communicate with the client application via the client interface.

73. (amended) The tool of claim 71, wherein the messages comprise:
at least one predefined request message issued by the client application to the rate server; and
at least one predefined response message issued by the rate server to the client application.

74. (amended) The tool of Claim 73, wherein:
the at least one predefined request message includes a weight and a delivery date for a package to be shipped; and
the at least one predefined response message includes a cost for shipping the package.

75. (amended) The tool of Claim 71, wherein the set of rules by which the carrier transports comprises a knowledge base of rate structures and carrier practices pertaining to the carrier.

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76. (amended) The tool of Claim 71, wherein the set of rules by which the shipper ships comprises a knowledge base of shipper's practices pertaining to the shipper.

77. (amended) The tool of Claim 76, wherein the knowledge base of the shipper's practices comprises rules for taking orders for good from customers, packaging the goods, and shipping the goods to customers.

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79. (amended) The tool of Claim 71, wherein the supervisory server engages an interprocess communication mechanism to facilitate message passage between the rate server and the client application.

80. (amended) The tool of Claim 79, wherein the interprocess communication mechanism is selected form the group consisting of shared memory, semaphores, named pipes, queues, signals, netbios, sockets, and mail slots.

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83. (amended) The tool of Claim 79, wherein the client application further comprises a document server for printing a shipping document.

84. (amended) The tool of Claim 79, further comprising a document administration object for engaging communication standards for the interprocess communication mechanism.

86. (new) A delivery management tool, comprising:

- at least one rate server having a set of rules by which a carrier delivers;
- at least one client configured to collect input information from a user;
- at least one supervisory server including at least one computer configured to provide registration services to facilitate communication between the rate server and the client via a client/server architecture utilizing an inter-process communication mechanism, said communication being independent of said supervisory server; and
- at least one interface to the rate server configured to isolate rules by which the user operates from the set of rules by which the carrier delivers.

87. (new) The tool of Claim 86, wherein one or more of the computer processes are distributed across a network.

88. (new) The tool of Claim 86, wherein at least two of the rate server, the client and the supervisory server run on a single processor.

89. (new) The tool of Claim 86, wherein a first client, a first rate server, and a first supervisory server run on a single processor.

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90. (new) A logistics management tool, comprising:

- a rate server, connected to a network, having a set of rules by which a carrier transports, and having an accessible server interface identifying a message handling system for communicating with the rate server;
- a client application, connected to the network, having a set of rules by which a shipper ships, and configured to communicate with the rate server via the accessible server interface; and
- a supervisory server system, connected to the network, wherein the supervisory server system facilitates the communication of messages between the rate server and the client application independently of the supervisory server system;

wherein the message handling system is supported by both the rate server and the client application.

91. (new) The tool of Claim 90, wherein the supervisory server system facilitates the communication of messages between the rate server and the client application based upon a predefined set of rules.

92. (new) The tool of Claim 90, wherein one or more of the rate server, client application, and supervisory server system are distributed across the network.

93. (new) The tool of Claim 90, wherein the client application, rate server, and supervisory server system run on a single processor.

94. (new) The tool of Claim 90, wherein at least two of the rate server, the client application, and the supervisory server system run on a single processor.

95. (new) A logistics management tool, comprising:

at least one rate server having a record of rates applicable to a carrier and further having an embedded set of predefined methods representing rate computation rules of said carrier;

at least one client application in communication with said at least one rate server, said at least one client application having a user interface to permit a shipper to interact with said logistics management tool in order to process a shipment;

said at least one rate server having a shipper interface, wherein said shipper interface defines a set of operations accessible to said at least one client application, said set of operations representing a procedure by which a shipper ships goods to thereby isolate said set of operations from a set of rules by which said carrier transports; and

at least one supervisory server, wherein said at least one supervisory server makes said set of operations accessible to said client application, wherein said at least one supervisory server facilitates a communication of messages between said at least one rate server and said at least one client application based on a predefined set of rules.

96. (new) The tool of Claim 95, wherein one or more of said at least one rate server, said at least one client application; and said at least one supervisory server are distributed across a network.

97. (new) The tool of Claim 95, wherein said at least one rate server, said at least one client application, and said at least one supervisory server run on a single processor.

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98. (new) A logistics management tool, comprising:
- a rate server, connected to a network, having a set of rules by which a carrier transports, and having an accessible server interface identifying a message handling system for communicating with the rate server;
 - a client application, connected to the network, having a set of rules by which a shipper ships, and configured to communicate with the rate server via the accessible server interface; and
 - at least one supervisory server, connected to the network, wherein the at least one supervisory server system facilitates the communication of messages between the rate server and the client application based on a predefined set of rules, and
- wherein the message handling system is supported by both the rate server and the client application.

99. (new) A logistic management tool to facilitate the delivery of goods comprising:
a network architecture for passing messages;
a supervisory server having a registrar enabling communication with said network architecture;

at least one client application having a set of shipper rules and a first data processing service including a first registration service to register said client application with said registrar for establishing a line of communication between said client application and said network architecture, a first interface service to collect input data, generate a request message based on said input data and said set of shipper rules and display a response message, and a first message handling service to communicate said request message and said response message between said client application and said network architecture; and

at least one rate server having a set of carrier rules and a second data processing service including a second registration service to register said rate server with said registrar for establishing a line of communication between said rate server and said network architecture, a second interface service to generate said response message based on said set of carrier rules and said request message, and a second message handling service to communicate said request message and said response message between said rate server and said network architecture;

wherein said first and second message handling services enable communication between said at least one client application and said at least one rate server via said network architecture and isolate said set of carrier rules from said set of shipper rules.

REMARKS

Claims 1-99 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-26 and 42-54 are allowed. Claims 27-41 and 55-85 are rejected. Claims 86-99 have been added herein. The above amendments and following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Outstanding Office Action. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the present amendments and following remarks.

Applicant and its representative would like to thank Examiner Poinvil for the courtesies extended during the personal interview conducted on June 26, 2001.